

S E C R E T

23
[8761]

14 November 1974

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Dear [George,]NICOLE SZULC

We attach a note which we have received from [FETCH] and
which will be of interest to you. We would be grateful for any
traces and your comments. [REDACTED] 23 [REDACTED]

01
Yours sincerely,04
[REDACTED]03
Mr [George B Holmes]
Att: a/sRETURN TO CIA
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(CIA)

14-00000
10 NOVEMBER 1974
NICOLE SZULC

1. We would be grateful for traces on Nicole SZULC, American freelance journalist, age 27/29. She apparently also works for ~~Center for~~ National Security and ~~intelligence operations~~ studies. Her father was New York Times Bureau Chief in HAVANA in 1959. SZULC is a strong sympathiser of the Cuban regime: by her own account she has come to Cuba for one month at Cuban invitation to gather material on CIA operations in Cuba, past and present, and to "assist" the Cubans in uncovering new leads to current CIA intelligence activity (particularly among the foreign community). She was last in Cuba in 1971. SZULC made her first approach to the Cuban Embassy in MEXICO CITY several months ago with a request for Cuban material on CIA operations. The Cubans responded by inviting her to a clandestine-type meeting in NEW YORK where she met Cuban officials accredited to the UN in a car. At that meeting no material was provided but she was asked to come to Cuba as soon as possible in order to carry out "joint research". SZULC spent the month of October in Brazil where she has family (she is half Brazilian) and arrived in HAVANA on a flight from LIMA on 9 November. She had appointments with MINREX on 13 November to discuss her "programme" for the next four weeks.

2. I met SZULC first on 12 November at REGIN's (Reuter) apartment where she called to see him while I was paying him a brief, unheralded call. I met her again by chance on 13 November in the lobby of the Riviera Hotel where she and British businessmen whom I was visiting are staying. The sympathetic curiosity shown by REGIN and me on the respective occasions was sufficient to get her talking about the purpose of her visit. At the same time REGIN and I both made favourable comments on certain aspects of Cuban development and this seemed to win her confidence. Her evident capacity for self-delusion appears to enable her to suppose that other observers of the Cuban scene (except those possibly working for the CIA whom she hopes to uncover) share her partiality towards the Cuban system. I did not, of course, disillusion her in my case, and, although challenging some of her more outrageous remarks, left her with the impression of a favourable view of Cuba. She is, however, self-opinionated, intellectually obstinate and quite incapable of objectivity when discussing Cuba. She seems keen for a further meeting (no doubt as a stepping stone to the foreign community she wishes to penetrate) and I suspect is prepared to use her feminine charms along the way.

3. Apart from traces I should welcome your comments. Since she will presumably be meeting DSE and DGI officials I would obviously have to be circumspect about any further encounter with her, but you may consider this a good opportunity to try and pick up and on whatever details she may reveal unguardedly about Cuban counter-intelligence operations.

Note that while working with Center for Nat'l Security Studies at the time ~~she~~ in Cuba in 1974 — CNSS had just sponsored a 2-day conference on CIA & Soviet action in Sep 74, CNSS had just recently formed prior to the Conference on CIA.